



Boston Connects, Incorporated
Boston Empowerment Zone
2201 Washington Street

BOARD MINUTES
February 25, 2003

Members Present: Mike Vance - *President*, Mike Foley - *Treasurer*, Gloria Coney - *Clerk*, Joelee Baker Bey, Rev. Gerald Bell, Ralph Cooper, Michael Glavin, Betty Greene, George Greenidge, Joanne Hilferty, Valerie Pruitt, Frederick Umeh, John Wagner and Thomas W. Yee

Members Absent: Judith Flashner, Charlotte Golar Richie, John Harrington, Robert Kinney - *Vice President*, Mark Maloney, Elizabeth Miranda and Juanita Wade

BCI Staff: Christine Araujo, Shirley Carrington, Sherry O'Brien and Judith Roderick

EDIC Staff: Ken Barnes and Michelle Trousil

Ex-Officios: Michael Ross

Guests: Frank Tocci, Marv Henry, Ron Marlow (Sen. Wilkerson's office), Nathan Pham (Senator Hart's office) and Andy Waxman

Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Introductions were made.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To accept the minutes of the December 17, 2002 minutes.

By: Mr. Glavin Second: Mr. Foley
Recused: 0 Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0
Motion: **Carried**

2. PRESIDENTS REPORT

Mr. Vance read a letter from Mayor Menino appointing Mr. Thomas Yee to the Board. Mr. Yee was introduced to the Board and gave a brief bio of himself.

Motion: To seat Mr. Yee to the Boston Connects, Inc. Board

By: Ms. Greene Second: Mr. Baker Bey
Recused: 0 Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0
Motion: **Carried**

Mr. Vance welcomed Mr. Yee to the Board.

Mr. Vance apologized for rescheduling the January Board meeting due to an important community meeting that was subsequently canceled at the last minute. He encouraged Board members to call him or Ms. Araujo with any questions or concerns that they may have.



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor
City of Boston

2201 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02119 ■ Phone 617-541-2670 ■ Fax 617-427-0747
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Mr. Vance announced that Pat Riddick had resigned from the Board. Ms. Riddick's resignation means that two elected seats are not filled. He will work with Mr. Kinney to fill these two seats.

Mr. Vance encouraged Board members to review their commitments to the goals and objectives of Boston Connects, Inc. because he needs maximum participation to get the Board's work done in 2003. Mr. Vance referred to the work plan devised by the Ad Hoc Planning Committee. This work plan will help with budget and staff planning.

Mr. Baker Bey suggested that a fundraising piece be added to the work plan in order to ensure the survival of BCI. He also referred to a 1999 newspaper article that stated that the EZ had received \$100M. The community needs clarification to let them know how much we have actually received. Mr. Greenidge agreed stating that we need to be stewards of the organization and therefore needed to leverage additional resources. Mr. Cooper added that banks other than Fleet needed to be accountable for leveraged resources.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Araujo gave the Executive Director's report reviewing the progress of programs funded to date. She indicated that numbers seem to be picking up but encouraged Board members to help in referring residents to programs.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. AD-HOC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Ms. Hilferty was introduced to facilitate the Committee process. She began by stating that the goal of this planning exercise was to help Board members better understand and agree upon the Board activities for the coming year. Each Committee chair briefly explained their committee's goals and objectives from their work plan as follows:

1. *Economic Development:* Mr. Glavin

Mr. Marlow suggested that the statement "Promote the creation of small business" may need to read "Support small business."

2. *Health and Well-Being:* Mr. Wagner

3. *Community Capacity Building:* Mr. Baker Bey

Mr. Greenidge asked who the groups were that were interviewed to provide the grant writing program. Mr. Foley recommended that the Consultant identified to provide the grantwriting training be approved by the Board.

4. *Education and Job Readiness:* In the absence of the Chair, Ms. Araujo gave the Committee's report.

City Councilor Michael Ross underscored the importance of the work of the Committee noting that it is important that more of the jobs created in the Longwood Medical Area go to Zone residents both in Mission Hill and Zone wide.

5. *Marketing and Governance:* Ms. Araujo

6. *Monitoring:* Mr. Vance

Ms. Hilferty summarized the process, indicating those programs that were ranked highest (Attachment A) by the Board. She thanked the Ad Hoc Committee and the Board for participating in the process.

B. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Glavin introduced the T. J. Katsiroubas & Sons, Inc. (a.k.a. Katsiroubas Brothers) project and recused himself from voting on the project since Fleet Bank is the banker for the company.



Mr. Tocci, Executive Director BLDC/BIDFA and Mr. Nick Katsiroubas presented the Katsiroubas Brothers proposal.

Started in 1916, Katsiroubas Brothers is a third generation fruit and wholesale distributor. It is one of the largest produce companies in Boston with 27 trucks and over \$22 million in sales.

The applicant proposes to:

- 1) renovate their current facility at 40 New Market Square in Roxbury to meet federal HAACP regulations regarding food handling;
- 2) add 16,800 square feet and seven (7) new loading docks.

The company anticipates a total workforce of 63. Employment opportunities for Zone residents are in the eight to ten jobs to be created, and those jobs that become available if some of the Everett employees choose not to commute to Newmarket Square. To identify candidates, outreach will occur to community based organizations.

Members questions centered on the number of employees from the Zone, number of jobs, benefits and the company's willingness to hire Zone residents with CORI's. Mr. Katsiroubas stated that they are already hiring from a local halfway house and would continue the practice of outreaching to the ex-offender population. In addition, he stated that he would outreach to BCI and community based organizations to assist in meeting his staffing needs.

Motion: To approve an Empowerment Zone tax exempt facility bond in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 for the construction and renovation of 40 New Market Square in Roxbury by T.J. Katsiroubas & Sons, Inc.

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| By: | Rev. Bell | Second: Mr. Baker Bey |
| Recused: | 1 (Mr. Glavin) | Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0 |
| Motion: | Carried | |

A proposal to initiate a microloan program was very briefly discussed. During the '03 planning exercise this was identified as a priority.

Motion: To allocate \$550,000 of Goal A funds to support the creation of a program for the provision of loan funds and technical assistance to existing small businesses within the EZ. BCI staff is authorized to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the services as described.

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| By: | Mr. Cooper | Second: Mr. Foley |
| Recused: | 0 | Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0 |
| Motion: | Carried | |



C. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Mr. Vance recused himself and turned over the chair to Ms. Coney. Ms. Araujo explained the process that BCI staff underwent for the Information Technology Network Training procurement. Ms. Araujo presented a vote, as follows:

Motion: To authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of BCI, to enter into contracts with the following organizations to support approximately 40 Zone residents in two years of Information Technology Network training, internships as appropriate and job placement.

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|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Codman Square Health Center | \$128,133 |
| Madison Park Community Develop. Corp. | <u>\$189,534</u> |
| TOTAL | \$317,667 |

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| By: | Mr. Baker-Bey | Second: | Rev. Bell | | |
| Recused: | 1 (Mr. Vance) | Abstained: | 0 | Opposed: | 0 |
| Motion: | Carried | | | | |

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

A true record attest:

Gloria Coney, Clerk

Date



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